



September 16, 2013

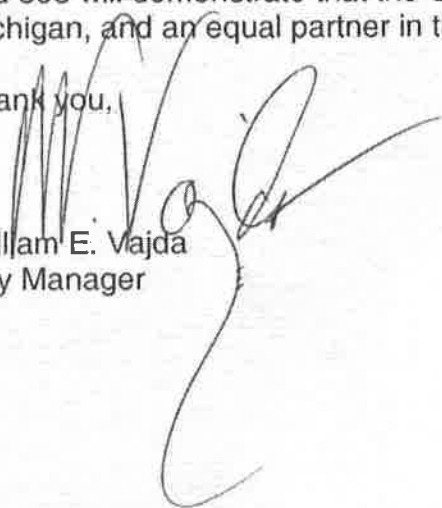
Senator Mike Kowall  
125 W. Allegan, Ste. #305  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Senator Kowall and Committee Members:

Thank you for your diligence regarding Senate Bills 397 and 398. My colleagues, Escanaba City Manager Mr. Jim O'Toole, Senator Thomas Casperson, Representative John Kivela, and I are deeply committed to the proposition that Marquette and Delta Counties become a Next Michigan Development District and to ensure the Upper Peninsula stands with the rest of the state on the forefront of Economic Development and achievement.

I believe these bills once signed into law will foster economic success across hundreds of businesses representing the lifeblood and employment for over half of the entire Upper Peninsula population. I believe passage of Senate Bills 397 and 398 will demonstrate that the Upper Peninsula is indeed a part of the Next Michigan, and an equal partner in the success of Michigan's economic future.

Thank you,



William E. Vajda  
City Manager